

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Emma Polinsky, and I am a student at Yale University who resides in New Haven.

I stand in support of HB 6616 and the effort to expand access to HUSKY regardless of immigration status and age. If Connecticut wants a future that includes healthy families and a stable, thriving, and growing workforce that is ready to meet the needs of our future, Connecticut must ensure that these individuals have access to health coverage. Expanding access to HUSKY is an important step towards this future.

The United States per capita health care spending is above the average of peer countries, and it fares worse on many health outcomes, including overall life expectancy. This paradox can only be addressed by expanding access to primary care for everyone. No one should have to forego needed medical treatments, or skip on a preventative care visit, because of lack of insurance. Health care is a human right.

Currently, despite paying over half a billion dollars in taxes annually, undocumented immigrants are barred from accessing the very programs their taxes fund, like HUSKY. As a result, 58% of the 113,000 undocumented immigrants in Connecticut are uninsured, a vast number in comparison to the 5.9% uninsured rate for all across Connecticut. This is a clear disparity in coverage and a health equity issue.

I moved to Connecticut to attend university, but I see many similarities between the issues of healthcare access inequities in the city of New Haven, where I currently reside, and my hometown of Saint Petersburg, Florida. Through my experiences and interactions with residents of both places, I am constantly reminded that all people should have access to healthcare.

I support expanding HUSKY to all regardless of age and immigration status, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,  
Emma Polinsky